

SUNDAY MEDITATION

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Practical Duties Taught by a Study of the Late
national Sunday-school Lesson Appointed for
Feb. 8. *See page 10.*
[One reading these notes should still carefully
study the paragraph from the Holy Scriptures
indicated.]

SUBJECT: CHRIST'S FIRST PASSOVER.
I. INTRODUCTORY.
1. Preliminaries.

We now study the account of our Savior's first
attendance at a passover feast as a participant
in the last lesson related to the Presentation
of the infant Jesus at the Temple and the Circum-
cision of Simon. The parents lived in the Temple
for a short time. Simon had no sons
rejoiced speaking than Anna took up the praise
of the infant. (2: 29-38). St. Luke passes

2. *Verses 40, 51 and 52.*

The account of Jesus being lost at Jerusalem and being found in the Temple is as a parenthesis between 40 and 51, 52. That beautiful parenthesis is an oasis in a desert with no cultivation and for 18 miles to the east and 10 miles to the west. It is all we know of Christ from the time he was two years old until he was 12 years old from then on till the end of his 30th year of age. It is the choice valuable crystal with the huge globe.

All we know for 28 years of Christ's life on the side of that parenthesis, our reader reads: "T

child grow and waxed strong in spirit filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. * * * And he went down with them (Sts. Mary and Joseph) and came to Nazareth and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." The Incarnation could have been in immediate adult form as Minerva sprang into existence full-fledged. But childhood would have missed much in Jesus who

ow charms the young, and our Holy religion could not have been characterized by the beautiful simplicity which causes many of our adult adherents to exhibit certain of those qualities which we admire so much in children, as, e. g., faith, trust, dependence on the Heavenly Father.

We may suppose Verse 40 refers to Christ until he was 12 years old, (V. 41), and verses 41 and 52 relate to him from 12 to 30 years of age; thus we have a wonderful summarizing history and a fine illustration of St. John, 2

Becoming incarnate, Christ subjected himself to all the laws which relate to the physical growth, to hunger, to call for sleep, etc. He not only became limited by a human body, but by a human mind, and his mind was subject to all the mental laws. Said mind needed education, and was capable of daily development. His grew in body and mind. As capacity enlarged, knowledge increased. There is even allusion in the word "wisdom" to the

of a peculiar biblical significance to the world of wisdom. (Prov. 1:7; Is. 11:2, 3.) He grew and matured in stature. We think he had a good physique. He shared God's grace or favor. Providence presided over his birth and development into manhood. God blessed him. I think he was a model of all the incarnated virtues, and would thus approve himself to all good men. His destined mission required sanctification in soundness of body. We presume he availed himself of all the means for education.

hand for Jewish children of his rank in society. We remember in his adult years he was surrounded by people by his peculiarly good Jewish nature. (St. Matt., 13: 54, 55; St. Mark, 6: 2, 3; St. John, 7: 15.)

"He was subject unto them." He was a filial and obedient Child. He restrained impulses (if he had any) to leave home and take part in religious discussion in a public way, as he had done at the Temple. But His Blessed Mother never forgot the peculiar incidents attending His birth and His infancy at the Temple.

able. She apprehended some deep but incredible significance in such supernatural manifestations.

3. Suggestions.

1. Seek religious wisdom. One considering the facts of life notices that amid the temporary, fluctuating, changing, there is the stationary, reliable. True wisdom consists in fixing on the firm, trusting in the strong, investing in the solid, stable, permanent.
2. Grow. Be not satisfied with present attainments.

2. Approve yourselves: 1. to God; 2. to men.
4. Seek God's grace.
5. Time spent in getting ready is not lost as devoted 30 years to preparation for his life mission.
6. Honor father and mother. Children should learn to be subject to parents.
7. Mothers must be mindful of their ofspring—keep the interests of their children as their first—watch the course of their lives.

8. We see the utility of the home. Says St. Paul, "Learn first to show piety at home." (1 Th. 5: 4.) For 30 years Jesus was subject to his parents. (Y. 51.) He exemplified the fifth commandment. After years of piety at home we can begin to teach piety in public.

Again we see our indebtedness to St. Luke's Gospel alone gives account of the Christus conversing with the Rabbi. He wrote some A. D. 57. He passes from Anna (2:34) to St. John Baptist, (3:3), mentioning only the incident of this lesson and omitting the Wise Men, the Flight into Egypt and Return to Palestine. St. Matthew, on the other hand, mentions those three facts, but passes over the temple incident, which we now study. St. Mark omits all these childhood circumstances.

And St. John also omits any notice of the nativity and early incidents in Christ's life, and commences his Gospel with account of the baptism by St. John, son of Zacharias. It is singular that in a biography covering a life of nearly 33 years, 30 years are practically blotted out and unknown. But, after all, we are interested in Christ mainly as our Savior.

St. Luke, 2: 41-50, tells the story of the child, Jesus, and the Rabbi in the Temple.

The Passover in A. D. 1386 began on April 9. It continued seven days. (Lev., 23 : 5, 6.) Sabbath closed on the 16th. The party may have left their homes in the latter part of the 16th day. They returned, and on the third day found the child. Or they may have left their party on the 17th. Thus they found the Child on the 19th or 20th of April. It was probably Jesus was 12 years old on, we may say, December 5 before. His age, was therefore, about 12 and one-fourth years. That was to a Jewish youth.

period of great moment. It was the time when the Hebrew father took his son to the synagogue and had him recognized or duly acknowledged as "a son of the law." Then the boy began to wear phylacteries. At the first opportunity thereafter the youth was to repair to the Temple, and from then on attend annually the three great religious feasts. It was the dividing line between the child and the youth. As soon as then the boy was put to learn a trade or service at the Temple was like partaking, for the first time, of the Holy Land.

as similar in bearing to the Confirmation service of the Roman Catholic and the Episcopal churches. It is an age when one is compelled to act for himself—to realize his own individuality—to understand the significance of religious duty. Teachers should make a special effort to interest in immediate religious concerns all youths of about 12 years of age. Many very child of that age who studies this lesson decide at once to become an active Christian—go up to our Passover, the Holy Eucharist—

3. Place.

The incident of special interest in the lesson took place at the Temple in Jerusalem. This was 68 miles south of Nazareth. There were many departments of the Temple. Off from these different departments were various rooms. In some of these the Rabbi met scholars for instruction and conversation. It was in one such place that the Child and the Jewish doctors had the interview.

4. Nazareth to Jerusalem.

Why was Christ's second visit to the capital when 40 days old he was taken there for Presentation in the Temple. We do not read that he went again till his visit as stated in this lesson. How did Sts. Mary and Joseph dare to take the Child Jesus to Jerusalem? We re-

093 **Answer.**—Not necessarily; but if this medical condition should show a pronounced degree of disability from the new disability, it would be reopened and a claim made for the necessary medical attention. The attention evidenced by the presence of a regular physician and the regular treatment of the patient are in some of the important factors. The degree of helplessness must be sufficient to require the attention of a physician, but it is not imperative that constant aid be required.

H. T. Watville, O.—To whom shall I apply my two burials which I received and then returned to the Government service? I cannot obtain custody of them.

J. L. Gruber, Pa.—Soldier contracts, in illness, and in the hospital, for the loss of the thumb and injury of knee-joint, and is now unable of performing manual labor; to what extent is he entitled to compensation? Is the soldier of Pennsylvania could be convinced by evidence that he was injured by reason of causes shown to be due to the military service?

totally incapacitated for the performance of manual labor, the \$20 rate would be allowed. **Q.** K. K. Knecht, —Under the Per Diem Pension Bill, what would be the rate of pension for a soldier who served 350 days, and what would be the rate for one who served 1,054 days? **Answer.** \$8 per day and \$10.54 per month, according to the provisions of The National Tribune bill.

Q. M. A. Rozar, Kinn.—If an applicant for pension dies during the pendency of an appeal from the decision of the pension board, and the determination of his claim, or the result of a pension examination, what will be the result? **Answer.** If the soldier left a widow or minor children the pension could be taken up by such person and its pro-

H. A. T. Haines City, Fla.—1. A soldier enlisted under an assumed name. Will that bar his pension under his true name? **2.** He received injuries while in the volunteer service and was wounded in the Regular Army. Will his pension on his old wounds broke out afresh. Will such a soldier service destroy title to pension for salary sustained in the volunteer service? **3.** Does he advise him to apply for pension? **Answer.**—

There has just been completed a roster containing the names and addresses of over 100 survivors of Berdan's 1st and 2d U. S. S. which has been published by the association of the two regiments. This roster includes the names of all officers who were mustered into either regiment, with date of discharge.

death, or muster-out; also a list of the battles in which each regiment participated, with casualties, and an interesting history of the organizations. A copy of the roster will be made for any survivor of either regiment, to whom a copy has not already been sent, upon application to the undersigned, giving full name, company, regiment, and postoffice address. R. W. TYLER, Secretary and Treasurer, 1300 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

George E. Hammer, who was an inmate of the Dayton (O.) Soldiers' Home, died July 1883. He served in Co. E, 52d N. Y., and his left leg at the battle of Petersburg was bravely fighting under the starry flag. Prior to his death he drew up a will, in which he said that for 12 years he had found a good kind home, in consideration of which and recognition of his appreciation for his home and the many acts of kindness that had been shown him while there, he desired that

the \$1,000, which he had saved from his
sion money, should go to the erection
fountain in the circle lawn, immediate
front of the hospital. The fountain has
erected, is 18 feet high, handsomely carved,
is a magnificent piece of workmanship.
departed hero's name appears in beautiful
carved letters on the fountain.

"Touch elbows again." See page 3.

The 147th Pa. at Gettysburg.

Capt. Joseph A. Moore, late of Co. B, 1st Pa., has written and published in a new pamphlet form a spirited account of the service his regiment in the three momentous days of Gettysburg. His description of the final pulse on the third day of Johnston's Division vs. the "Iron Brigade" of General George Ewell's Corps, on the extreme right of line, is very graphic and interesting. This a brilliant piece of soldiiership, since the inflicted upon the rebels was enormously proportionate to that suffered by the Union forces. Capt. Moore's address is:

"Touch elbows again." See page 3.

Regular Soldiers and Sailors.

The Regular soldiers and sailors of Boston have organized "Gen. R. A. Mackenzie G. son, No. 1," with a fair membership and prospects of growth. It is intended that organization shall extend all over the United States, and embrace all men, without regard to rank, who have served honorably in the R.

lar Army or Navy. The Captain is James Roche, 100 East Brookline street, Boston whom all inquiries should be addressed.

“Touch elbows again.” See page 3.

Regimental History.

The Association of the 8th N. H. has decided to have the history of the regiment written and appointed a committee, with Col. H. A. Fearing at the head, and Lieut. George Bridgman Secretary.

ford, N. H., has been elected Historian. The book will be ready for delivery in about 10 days, and the probable price \$3. All communications containing money should be to B. S. Woods, Nashua, N. H.

"Touch elbows again." See page 3.

Proceedings of the 23d National Encampment
The proceedings of the 23d National Encampment have been published and distributed.

to the various persons entitled to receive them. They are gotten up in admirable shape, and reflect great credit on Col. Eugene F. Weigand, very capable Adjutant-General under Maj. Verner's administration.

The Angelus.

The publishers of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* have made a chromo reproduction of the famous "Angelus," which gives an excellent idea of the picture to those who have the opportunity of seeing the original.

She Whistled.
[Detroit Free Press.]

A Philadelphia pension attorney collected \$553 for a widow, carried it in his pocket for a month, and finally, after she had refused to take \$100 and call it square, told her to whist for any portion of it. She whistled so loud long that he goes to prison for three years, she gets all her money.

"Touch elbows again." See page 3.
[Had Tried Politics.
[New York Weekly.]

Great Statesman (to married daughter)—
dear, your husband will never amount to a
thing if you don't spur him on. Why don't
you persuade him to go into politics?

Daughter—But, pa, he has tried, and
can't stand it. The whisky makes him sick.

"Touch elbows again." See page 3.
A Woman's Idea of Women.
[Chicago Mail.]
I heard a charming young married woman make a singular remark the other day. "I were a man," she said, "I think I would be a bachelor. Not because I would admire the boys or because I would prefer it to the joys of hearthstone, but because in the whole list of my acquaintances I don't know a girl whom I would marry. What are my chances?"

tell you exactly. There are some girls who faultily one way and some another, but they all fall so far below what I would desire in a wife I man, that unless I were blinded to most that I now know, or unless I could find somebody different from all the girls I had ever known, I would not marry. You think that remarkable utterance? Well, perhaps it is and an unkind one, too, since I am a woman but I can't help it. It is the way I feel."

CONSUMPTION CURED.
An old physician, retired from practice, has placed in his hands by an East India mission, a formula for a simple vegetable remedy for the speediest cure of Consumption, Coughs, Croup, French Cough, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all nervous complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send this formula free of charge to all who apply. Address, J. C. Smith, German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by adding, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. No. 3.

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